

NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER NATIONAL FORESTS

Watershed Specialist Review

Project: **Ophir Mine Adit – Abandoned Mine Land Evaluation**

Date: 8/12/14

Extraordinary Circumstances Review: Floodplains, Wetlands, Municipal Watersheds

Resource	Present	Potential Extraordinary Circumstance	Effect
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	Occupation or modification of floodplains (<i>EO 11988</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	Occupation or modification of wetlands (<i>EO 11990</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Municipal Watersheds	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	Actions in municipal watersheds (<i>FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30.3.2</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

1. Scope

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the proposed project to determine whether there may be “significant and adverse impacts” to any of the following extraordinary circumstances described in FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30.3.2: *(b) Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds*. In addition to evaluating whether or not the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion from documentation in an EA or EIS, this report provides documentation of the project’s consistency with the 1987 Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests Plans and relevant State and Federal regulations.

2. Existing conditions

2.1. Project Location: *See Project File*

2.2. Need for the Project: *See Project File*

2.3. Proposed Action(s): *See Project File*

2.3.1. Design Criteria

☒ No additional design criteria, above those listed in the proposal, are proposed for water resources.

☐ Additional design criteria, above those listed in the proposal, are proposed for water resources. These criteria are attached to this document.

2.4. Site Inspection Notes: This project is a simple abandoned mine land closure. A bat gate installation will not impact any water resources.

3. Environmental Consequences

3.1. Direct and Indirect Effects

No direct or indirect significant, adverse effects to floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds are proposed or expected for this project.

3.2. Cumulative Effects – Past, present and reasonably foreseeable activities

No cumulative significant, adverse effects to floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds are proposed or expected for this project. Cumulative effects would be most noticeable at the site scale (if they occur), becoming progressively less discernible at the sub-watershed, watershed, and sub-basin scales. Given the low degree of anticipated site-level effects, cumulative effects are expected to be negligible.

3.3. Regulatory Framework:

Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 (Floodplains and Wetlands)

Floodplains: The Project will not modify or occupy floodplains to an extent greater than already exists. As such, there will be no adverse impacts to floodplains; thereby complying with EO 11988 and FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30.3.2.

Wetlands: The Project does not propose to modify or destroy wetlands. As such, the Project will not adversely affect wetlands; thereby complying with EO 11990 and FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30.3.2.

Municipal Watersheds: The Project area is not located within a municipal watershed. As such, the Project will not adversely affect municipal watersheds; thereby complying with FSH 1909.15, Chapter 30.3.2.

Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and State Water Quality Laws: The proposed project is also consistent with all applicable State and Federal water quality laws because project Design Criteria and BMPs have been included to protect water resources.

Clean Water Act: Sections 303(d), 305(b) Impaired Waters and TMDLs

Watershed (HUC6) of proposed project:

Is the watershed on Idaho's 303(d) Impaired Waters List? Peasley Creek-South Fork Clearwater River ☒ YES ☐ NO
If YES: Is the pollutant/issue excess sediment? ☒ YES ☐ NO
If YES: Are ground disturbing activities proposed? ☐ YES ☒ NO
If YES: Are BMPs or Design Criteria included to minimize/eliminate sediment delivery to WOTUS? ☐ YES ☒ NO

If YES: Is the pollutant/issue excess temperature? ☒ YES ☐ NO
If YES: Is vegetation or canopy cover removal proposed? ☐ YES ☒ NO

Will the proposed project likely result in further impairment of the watershed? ☐ YES ☒ NO

Reason: This is a simple abandoned mine closure; no canopy cover will be removed;

Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act: The proposed project is consistent with the intent of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, which states that management of the National Forests must provide "sustained yields in perpetuity without impairment of the productivity of the land", because watershed functions are not expected to be impaired.

National Forest Management Act: The proposed project is consistent with the intent of the NFMA because project activities will not irreversibly damage water resources and project Design Criteria and BMPs have been included to protect water resources.

3.4. Forest Plan Consistency

The Forest Plan objective for Water Quality is: "*The current Idaho Water Quality Standards will be met or exceeded. This will be accomplished through ... application of best-management practices*". The proposed project is consistent with the standards, goals, and objectives for water resources set forth in the Nez Perce National Forest Plan (USDA, 1987a) and the Clearwater National Forest Plan (USDA, 1987b) because project Design Criteria and BMPs have been included to protect water resources. BMPs include Soil and Water Conservation Practices (FSH 2509.22) used to control non-point source pollution and protect water resources from permanent damage.

SIGNATURE OF PREPARER

I certify that the contents of this report are true and accurate, to the best of my knowledge. Questions about this specialist report can be addressed to me, Bill Conroy, Forest Hydrologist (Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests), 208-983-5154.

/s/ William J. Conroy
William J. Conroy

Date